

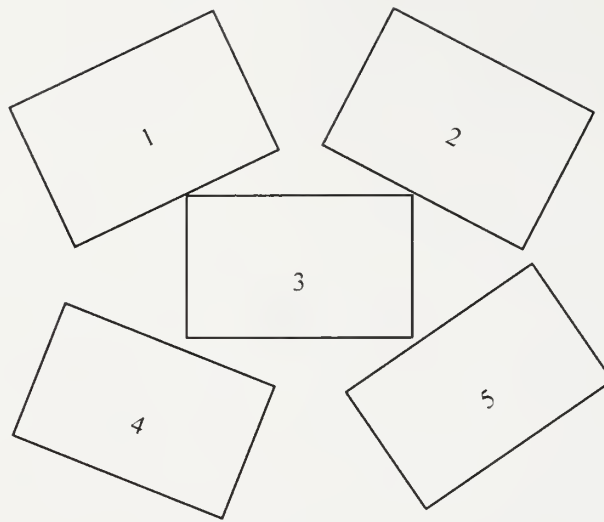
RUTLAND FROM TIME TO TIME



Hotel Bartlett Rutland, Mass.



A CHRONOLOGY OF
EVENTS FROM
1686 - 2008



Cover Photos

*(All pictures courtesy of Rutland Historical Society
except where noted)*

1. Massachusetts State Sanatorium, Central Tree Road
2. U.S. Veterans Hospital, Maple Avenue
3. Rutland Town Common—1838
4. Hotel Bartlett, Main Street
5. Coaching Parade, Main Street

Photo courtesy of Lucy Gertrude Gerry circa 1901

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A CHRONOLOGY OF
EVENTS FROM
1686 – 2008

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FOREWORD

Rutland is the geographical center of Massachusetts that is marked by a tree on Central Tree Road. Its highest elevation is 1250 feet at the standpipes on Rice Hill on Wheeler Road. There are over 72 miles of roads and the population as of 2007 was 8,066. The view from the town center is scenic, with views of Mount Wachusett, Mount Monadnock and on a clear day, Mount Greylock.

During its history, Rutland has had a Revolutionary War Barracks for British and Hessian prisoners of war, a state operated Prison Camp, two major tuberculosis hospitals, hotels, and two other villages (West Rutland and North Rutland) with mills, stores, a train station, a school and many houses.

This book of interesting facts was compiled by the Curatorial Committee of the Rutland Historical Society. The content was gleaned from our local history books, minutes of town meetings, newspaper articles and various other sources.

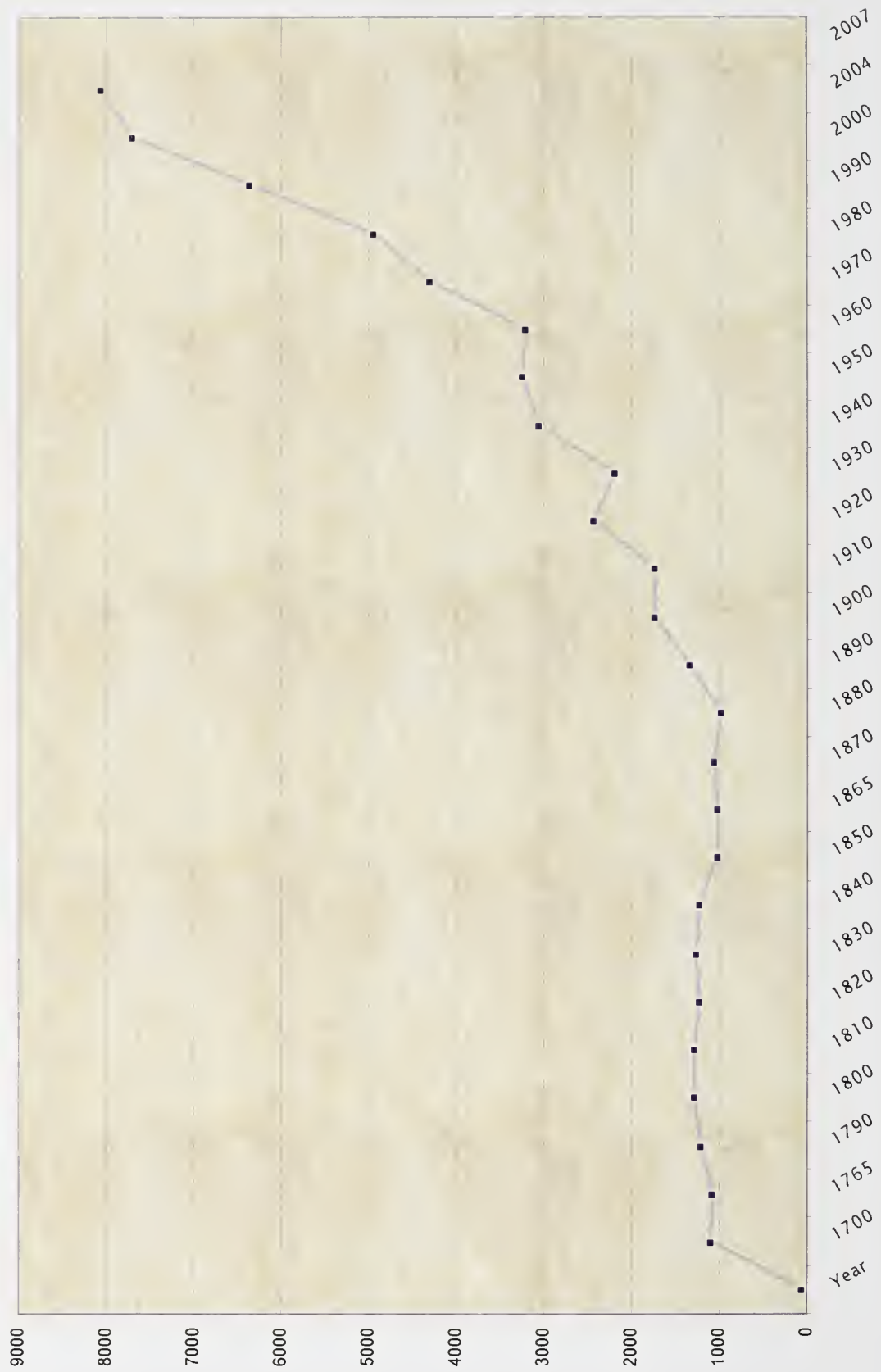
It is intended to provide the reader with a synopsis of events from our earliest beginning, 1686 to 2008. These events contributed to the evolvement of our town from a wilderness to the community as it is today, growing, but still rural in many ways.

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Rutland Historical Society, Inc.
2008

Population of Rutland



1686

- December 22 - Indians (Joseph Trask, aka Puagastion, Job, aka Pompamamay, Simon Piticom aka Wananapan, Sassawannow, and James Wiser aka Qualipunit) executed a deed to Henry Willard, Joseph Rowlandson, Joseph Foster, Benjamin Willard, and Cyprian Stevens for 23 pounds for a tract of land 12 miles square called Naquag.

1713

- February 23 - General Court confirmed lands in the Indian deed to heirs of Major Simon Willard (deceased) provided that within 7 years there be 60 families settled thereon, with lands reserved for a ministry and schools. The exception being the part already purchased (1000 acres) by Samuel Sewall. The town to be called Rutland, in the county of Middlesex.

1714

- April 14 - Indian deed recorded in Middlesex, libro.16, p.511.

1715

- October - 12 miles square of 93,160 acres surveyed by William Ward. In surveying, found Rutland to be the geographical center of Massachusetts. The original Proprietors named in the associate deed, in all, 33 shares. Original 12 mile square grant was comprised of Rutland, and what is now Oakham, Barre, Hubbardston, the greater part of Princeton, and half of Paxton.
- December 14 - Proprietors voted that 6 miles square be surveyed and set off for settlement of 62 families. A committee was formed to transact the concerns of the Proprietors. Six miles square (called the settling part) laid out for 62 house lots of 30 acres each.

1716

- Settlers marched through the woods to Rutland, began clearing land, erecting huts, planting crops for the following year, then returned home. Lot was laid out for a burying ground on Meeting House Hill, the highest spot in the town center.

1717

- Settlers returned in the spring, gathered crops and continued clearing land. Some wintered over.
- Proprietors established a road, 10 rods wide (Main Street), to run from the Ministry lot no. 62 (now Community Hall) to Rocky Hill (now Pound Hill) for common use. This vote was confirmed by the Proprietors of Rutland on May 8, 1743. The ten rod road was also known as the 6th Massachusetts Turnpike, which ran from Pelham to Shrewsbury through Rutland.
- Ten acres was set off for a training field, public ground, a school house and a burying ground "to be forever for the use above".

1719

- Settlers moved their families to Rutland.
- First male child, Samuel, born in Rutland to Moses and Eunice Howe on September 23. He was given 100 acres.

1720

- June 7 - Site of the first meeting house selected. Placed in front of the burying ground.
- Committee of Rutland met to see if the settlers had fulfilled their articles of settlement.
- House of Rev. Willard built on corner of Main and Pommogussett Rd. Was later used as a tavern, then the site of the Bartlett Hotel, now the site of the Community Hall.
- On June 10, the settlers petitioned the Proprietors Committee to lay out 5 acres each of meadow for their livestock. Granted.

1721

- June 26 - Proprietors committee met at the home of Captain Samuel Wright. They set off a Ministry lot, next to the meeting house, no. 61. Lot no. 63 was set off for a school lot.
- The Proprietors Committee then transferred ownership of the 6 mile square to the settlers as they had fulfilled their requirements. The settlers were then considered Proprietors and managed their own affairs and those of the town of Rutland.
- Rev. Joseph Willard appointed the first minister of the Congregational Church. His installation was deferred to the fall of 1723.

1722

- May 30 - General Court passed an Act of Incorporation.
- First legal town meeting held on July 30. Captain Samuel Wright chosen as Moderator.

1723

- August - First grist mill (on Mill Brook, Charnock Hill Road) burned by the Indians.
- August 14 - Indian raid killed Rev. Joseph Willard. Joseph and Samuel Stevens, sons of Deacon Joseph Stevens were also killed. His sons, Phineas and Isaac were captured and taken to Canada. They were ransomed two years later. It is believed that the Indian who led the raid was known as "Graylock".
- Town voted to build a fort around the house where Rev. Willard had lived. Several other forts were also built.

1723 - 1727

- In lieu of a Minister, the Gospel was preached by Mr. Ebenezer Pierpoint, Mr. Samuel Lennison, Mr. W. Brintnal, Mr. Thomas Frink and Mr. Andrew Gardner.

1724

- August 3 - Indian raid killed Joseph Wood, Uriah Ward and James Clark.

1727

- November 1 - Rev. Thomas Frink ordained as Minister of the Congregational Church. (Dismissed September 8, 1740).

1700's

- Daily food of the early settlers consisted of beef, pork, salt fish, dried apples and vegetables.

1730

- April 25 - Town meeting voted that "5 shillings be allowed to Mr. Frink's Negro for taking care of the Meeting House".

1733

- April 4 - Town meeting voted that the town raise money to buy a book to record births and deaths and that they may allow 15 shillings to buy it.
- Town voted that two schoolhouses be erected, one near the church, the other southwest of Cedar Swamp Pond (Demond Pond). They are to be kept 2/3 of the time in the center of town and 1/3 by the pond.

1733/1734

- Several four rod roads approved by town meeting.

1735

- William Brintnal appointed to teach school for one year.

1737

- Hubbardston settled as a district of Rutland. In 1775, it was incorporated as the town of Hubbardston.

1739

- June 29 - Cyprian Wright drowned in Muschopauge Pond.

1740

- The area near Long Pond was known as Dublin, owing to the large Irish population living there.

1742

- September 15 - Rev. Joseph Buckminster was ordained as Minister of the Congregational Church. He died November 3, 1792.



1744

- March 8 - Daniel Campbell, who was born in Scotland, was murdered on his own farm by his employee, Edward Fitzpatrick, an Irishman. (So said the inscription on his headstone in the Old Burying Ground).

1749

- In the fall, many children died from "canker rash or throat distemper". (Diphtheria)
- The area in the northwest part of Rutland was named a district of Rutland. Remained a district until 1774 when it was incorporated as the town of Barre.

1754

- French and Indian War
- Captain Peter Davis led a company of Rutland men to Fort William Henry in New York.
- Seth Metcalf was one of the soldiers at Fort Edward.
- Rufus Putnam saw service in northern New York. (Later was a resident of Rutland).
- Eighteen men from Rutland served in the war.

1756

- In the fall, there was an outbreak of dysentery or bloody flux. Nearly sixty people died.

1759

- A new Meeting House was erected in front of the first one.
- The old building was purchased by John Murray, who moved it to another site and used it for a tenement building.
- The settlement in the east wing of Rutland was established as a district of Rutland. In 1771 it was established as the town of Princeton.

1759 or 1760

- A soldier passing through town transmitted smallpox and eight people died.



The Old Tavern

1762

- The settlement of families in the west wing of Rutland was named a district of Rutland. In 1775 it was made the town of Oakham by the General Court.
- The building at the corner of Main Street and Pommogussett Road was used as a tavern. Site was later the Bartlett Hotel [Muschopauge House] and the site is presently the Community Hall.

1764

- A cattle pound was built on Rocky Hill on the northeast side of the ten rod road near the junction of old Princeton Road (now Glenwood Road) for the detention of stray cattle. After 1764 the area became known as Pound Hill.

1765

- Parts of Rutland and Leicester were established as a district of Paxton. In 1775, it was made the town of Paxton.
- The building at the corner of Main Street and the easterly side of Maple Avenue was operated as a store. It has operated as a store, post office and a restaurant continuously to the present. It was at this store that, when the Stamp Act was repealed, a maypole was erected and celebrators danced around it.



Corner of Maple Avenue and Main Street

1700's

- A field piece was mounted on the town common and was used for training militia.

1773

- September 29 - The town voted to build an Alms or Work House, built on Pound Hill. Was later used as a schoolhouse and a dwelling.

1774

- August 24 - John Murray, a Loyalist, fled to New Brunswick, Canada. He was forced out by citizens angry over his appointment as a Mandamus Councillor (appointed by the Crown to enforce the tax laws). Since they were no longer responsible to the peoples' will, this was considered taxation without representation. Murray was a wealthy landowner and had been a member of the General Court. All of his property was confiscated except for one farm, reserved for his son, Alexander who remained loyal to the patriots' cause and who fought in the Revolution.

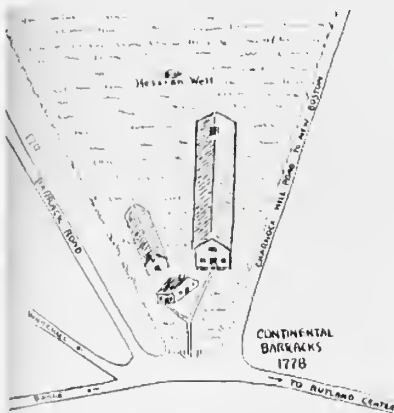
1775

- April 19 - A company of Minute Men marched from Rutland to Cambridge under the command of Captain Thomas Eustis.
- In the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, Rutland men Major Willard Moore and Benjamin Reed were killed in action.

1776

- Prices for some goods were:

◇ Corn	\$.75 / bushel
◇ Rye	\$1.12 / bushel
◇ Wheat	\$1.75 / bushel
◇ Beef	\$.06 / pound
◇ Butter	\$.18 / pound
◇ Cider	\$1.00 / barrel
◇ Labor	\$.75 / day
◇ Oak wood	\$2.00 / cord
◇ Toddy	\$.18
◇ Common dinner	\$.15



1777

- March 21 - The Continental Congress authorized the erection of a barracks for the housing of British and Hessian prisoners of war (corner of Charnock and Barrack Hill Roads). The so called Hessian well, 70 feet deep and 12 feet across, is all that remains at this site.
- September 19 - In the Battle of Saratoga, the 7th Regiment, was commanded by Colonel Nathan Sparhawk and made up of men from Rutland, Paxton, Barre, Princeton, Hubbardston, Holden and Templeton. When General Burgoyne surrendered, British and Hessian prisoners were sent to the Rutland Continental Barracks.

1779 - 1780

- The winter was so severe that it caused Militiamen on duty at the Barracks to ask for extra pay.
- 130 men from Rutland served in the Revolutionary War from 1774 to 1781.

1781

- The Centre School District extended from the Holden line to the bounds of Oakham for several years before the Revolution. Latin grammar was taught in the schools. To encourage this, Col. Murray gave \$20.00 annually.
- 71 males, 78 females attended School District #7 (Barracks, area of Deathville).

1783

- Joel Read was out with a party fishing in Muschopauge Pond and he drowned on June 3.
- Lieut. Samuel Browning drowned in a brook on his return to Town on October 23.

1786

- General Rufus Putnam laid out a system of District Schools
 - ◊ North Rutland, known as Crow Corner School
 - ◊ Onion Corner School, known as Greenleaf School
 - ◊ Christian End School, located near Muschopauge Station Central Mass Railroad
 - ◊ Pound Hill School
 - ◊ South District
 - ◊ Junction of Barre, Worcester and Spencer
 - ◊ West Rutland School
 - ◊ New Boston, on part of Phinehas Walker's Farm
 - ◊ Stratton District on Sassawanna Road
- Shay's Rebellion - The poorer farmers were suffering because of a scarcity of hard money and many were in debt. Captain Daniel Shay, a Revolutionary War Veteran, was chosen the leader of the discontented farmers. 350 men from Rutland, Worcester, and the adjoining county towns took part in closing the banks in Worcester. During the period of the movement, Shay's men were housed in the Continental Barracks in Rutland.

1787

- General Rufus Putnam was appointed by Congress as one of the surveyors to lay out the Western Territory. He was also on the committee on the sale of Eastern land, a Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum. He was one of the first and principal settlers that commenced the settlement of Ohio.



Ohio Day Celebration—
Sept 14, 1907

1788

- General Rufus Putnam, the 'Father of Ohio' leads the first expedition with forty eight men by wagon train to settle Marietta, Ohio on April 7, 1788. His house on Main Street was built in 1765 by John Murray and is now a private home listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1789

- Aaron Occum was an Indian who decided to live with the colonists. He lived in the part of Rutland which later became a part of Paxton at the southwest point of Turkey Hill Pond. He was a member of the local tribes, but he is believed to be an Oneida, a tribe located in northern New York and Canada.



1790

- Rufus Putnam and a party of twenty-six traveled to Ohio. The group was comprised of 3 ox wagons drawn by 2 yokes of oxen, a two-horse carriage for the General, a saddle horse, 4 cows and 1 bull. The trip took eight weeks and they arrived in Marietta in November 1790.

Rufus Putnam

1792

- Reverend Joseph Buckminster (the second ordained minister of the Congregational Church) had an able and successful ministry of more than 50 years. His ministry was terminated upon his death on November 3, 1792 at the age of 73. It is recorded that the Town and Church were so well united that every person in town who paid any taxes paid a part of his salary. "He was distinguished for his intellectual ability, ministerial fidelity and zeal".

1793

- Hezekiah Goodrich was ordained as the third minister and continued until his death, which occurred on February 7, 1812.

1794

- Rumor has it that a young girl, Betsy Bowen, born of an obscure family lived in a rough cabin built into the side of Goose Hill Cemetery. She was a young girl of a family on the verge of poverty, though blessed with good looks. She went from the cabin to wealth and fame in New York City and Paris, France and became Madame Jumel, wife of a wealthy merchant then later became the wife of Vice President Aaron Burr.

1802

- Town voted that the sum of \$500.00 be raised for the support of schools.
- Town voted to raise the sum of \$700.00 for the repair of highways, within the Town of Rutland to be disposed at the rate of 10 cents an hour for a yoke of oxen for a cart, and for the purchase of tools at the discretion of the surveyors until the first day of July.
- Town voted to accept Joseph King, he being the lowest bidder, to sweep and take care of the meeting house and ring the bell for \$11.00.

1803

- Town voted to have their swine run at large for the ensuing year.
- First Post Office was established in the store of Nathaniel White on October 1, 1803. It was located on the north side of Ten Rod Road almost opposite the present Maple Avenue.

1805

- Elijah Stone's daughter, Eunice was married. He gave her a 'portion' a 'setting out' for a dowry. Her dowry consisted of two feather beds, one 22 pound bag of feathers, 25 pair of sheets (one all wool covered, one of cotton and wool), one calico bed quilt, bolsters and pillows for 2 beds, one bedspread, 5 woolen sheets, 13 yards of table linen and \$5.00.

1807

- Town voted to raise the sum of \$600.00 on the polls and estates of the inhabitants of said Town for the support of schools and dispose of the same.

1808

- Embargo Act – Town of Rutland in a Town meeting voted to petition the President of the United States to suspend the Embargo Act. The loss of foreign markets caused a drop in the price for farm and plantation produce.

1809

- President Thomas Jefferson removed the embargo.

1810

- Town voted to raise \$1000 for support of the poor and other contingent charges for the year ensuing.

1812

- Burials began in Goose Hill Cemetery (Charnock Hill Road).
- 15 men from Rutland served their country in the War of 1812.
- School House on Pound Hill was burned.

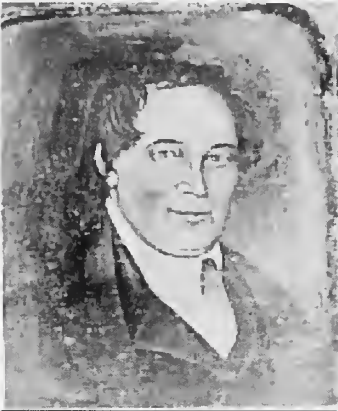
1813

- Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to furnish the militia of the Town with powder and ball agreeable to the requisition with this provision – each soldier shall return the same to the Selectmen immediately after the annual May training.

1817

- Mr. Luke B. Foster, minister of the Congregational Church, succeeded Mr. Goodrich. His ministry was cut short after a duration of four years by an early death. He died May 23, 1817 at the age of 28.
- To mail a first class letter in Rutland the postage was two cents.

1818



Rev. Josiah Clark

1818

- Mr. Josiah Clark was ordained June 2, 1818. His ministry continued for 27 years when he died July 11, 1845 at the age of sixty. His labors were blessed with rich success and by his faithfulness and affection endeared himself to his people. He was valued as a preacher, beloved as a Pastor and praised as a friend. He was superior in social sympathies and official labors.

1821

- Town voted \$900.00 for the support of highways by ensuing and expending it as follows - to allow 12 cents per hour for a man and 11 cents for a yoke of oxen and purchase of tools at the discretion of the surveyor.

1825

- Timothy Ruggles, William Hammond, Doctor Jonah Howe and Jonas Howe were drowned in Cedar Swamp Pond (now Demond Pond) when their canoe took in water. They got frightened and jumped into the water.

1826

- On January 1 the Sabbath School Library, located at the Congregational Church, commenced containing upwards of 300 volumes.

1827

- William Henry drowned in a brook near Long Pond on July 5.

1828

- Ten school districts were formed
 1. Center
 2. North Rutland
 3. Muschopauge
 4. Pound Hill
 5. South Road
 6. Dublin
 7. Deathville Barracks
 8. New Boston
 9. Sassawanna Road
 10. Onion Corner (on Glenwood Road)

1830

- By a vote of the First Society and Town, the ministerial and school funds were appropriated to build a Town House in which Town meetings could be held and by vote and agreement each Society had the privilege of holding religious meetings.
- The second meetinghouse, erected in 1759, burned on February 23. Cause of fire was coal from a stove falling on shavings. It became a blaze within half an hour after the afternoon services were held.
- A third meeting house was erected – 77 feet by 48 feet with a tower.
- On October 11 the pews were sold in a few hours for a sum sufficient to pay the cost of the house and the land it stood on after reserving a pew for the minister and six for strangers.

1831

- Jabez Bigelow began to manufacture meal sieves and sand riddles (a coarse sieve).

1832

- School house in District 3 (Muschopauge) was burned.

1833

- Town voted that the Town House be located at the southwest corner of the burying ground. The west sill to be placed upon the east line of the burying ground (site of the present Town Library).
- Town voted to choose one from each and every school district for a committee to count the number of scholars from birth to 21 years of age on the first day of May.
- Town voted that a committee build a fence in front of the burying ground (such as they think best).

1834

- Travel from Rutland to Boston was by a coach drawn by four to six horse teams. They made the forty miles from Worcester to Boston in three and one-half hours, averaging 12 miles an hour.
- Town voted that the Town House be used for all public purposes.

1835

- Jabez Bigelow advertised for 2 young women to work at home on looms. At that time he was operating 3 looms with 6 operators.

1836

- There were 4 grist mills, 7 saw mills, 5 shingle shops, a tannery and a currier in the Town of Rutland.

1840

- The Methodists formed a Church and a Society holding services in the Town Hall.

1842

- Rural Cemetery on Main Street, was established by the Rural Cemetery Association of Rutland. It consisted of three acres and 86 rods and later enlarged to include the purchase of two acres and 40 rods. Roads were built, lots were laid out and the cemetery was consecrated by the public on October 8. A large basin and fountain near the entrance add to the beauty of the area.
- The Old Burial Ground (beside the current day 'Old Fire House') was used until 1842. Land for this cemetery was set aside during the survey of 1717.



The Methodist Church

1844

- Josiah Pierce conducted "Pierce Stores" just off Barre Road (Rt. 122) where he sold timber, baskets, clothing, tea, cheese, axes, farm tools, apples, cider, beef, pork, flour and corn. He furnished oxen, horses and wagons to farmers and muzzles for oxen. His other talents included chopping wood, coopering baking tools and barrels. He also shod horses and mended townspeople's shoes.
- The Methodist Society built a house of worship. The church was prosperous for several years but in due time, because of lack of support, it was passed into private hands. The building was used as a harness shop and a boot shop. After extensive repairs, it was bought in 1882 by Rutland Catholic people and was later named St. Patrick's Church.

1845

- Reverend Daniel R. Cady was ordained in the Congregational Church on October 29. He was dismissed on October 11, 1849.

1849

- Congregational Church was destroyed by fire for the third time burning on January 7. A new church was erected that was more commodious in size and agreeable in architecture than the former ones. It was completed at a cost of \$8,000.

1850

- Reverend George E. Fisher was ordained in the Congregational Church on February 27, 1850. He was dismissed May 13, 1852.



Rev. George E. Fisher

1851

- On August 28, while fishing, Doctor John Field drowned in Cedar Swamp Pond (Demond Pond).
- A Social Ball was held in the Town Hall with music and a supper being served. The admission was \$2.00.

1852

- A Town Meeting was held in the Town Hall on Saturday afternoon the fifth of June at 1:00 pm.

1854

- Town voted to choose a Board of Overseers for the poor.
- Town voted to raise the sum of \$900 for the support of schools for the ensuing year.

1856

- Reverend David Burt was installed January 10 in the Congregational Church. He was dismissed on February 25, 1858.
- Town voted that the highways and roadways be made passable when encumbered with snow, the year ensuing. Under the direction of the highway surveyors allowing twelve cents per hour for a man and fourteen cents per hour for a pair of oxen.

1858

- Town voted "that the taking care of the Town House, the same to be performed under the direction of the Selectmen, to be let out to the lowest bidder". Edson Howe made the low bid of sixteen dollars.
- Town voted to direct the Selectmen to repair and paint the Town House.

1860

- Town voted to let out the ringing of the town bell on the occasion of deaths and funerals, and at twelve o'clock PM and nine o'clock PM to the lowest bidder at auction. The bid went to George Campbell for the sum of \$25.00, with the said service to be performed for the term of one year.
- Town voted to instruct the Selectmen to examine the old hearse and repair the same or procure a new one as they may deem it for the best interest of the Town.
- Town voted to direct the Selectmen to obtain an assortment of coffins, at the expense of the Town, to deposit them in some convenient place in Town, and to appoint an agent to sell the same, at the cost to such inhabitants of the Town as they may wish to purchase.
- Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to contract the same person, at the expense of the Town, to dig and fill graves and attend funerals with the hearse. Also to make the roads in the cemetery passable when encumbered with snow at the time of funerals.

1861

- April 15 - "When the stagecoach came back from Worcester and told farmers doing their chores that Ft. Sumter had fallen~everything changed. On the 18th citizens flocked to the Town Hall and the patriotic fervor began." *Walter Wheeler.*

1861-1865

- Oliver Judkins and Isaac Parker were the first from Rutland to serve in the Civil War. One hundred fifteen served in all.

1861

- It cost the town 12 cents per man or 14 cents per pair of oxen to plow snow.
- The first Catholic Mass was held in West Rutland at the home of Daniel Spooner by Fr. Edmund Young of Holy Cross College.
- The town voted to aid citizens who volunteered defense of our country-we will make up their pay to one dollar per day with what they shall receive from the government.

1862

- The town bought an assortment of coffins to use for its citizens.
- Use of the Town Hall was free except for wood and lights (lanterns or candles).
- A bid went out for a person to ring the town bell at deaths and funerals at noon and 9:00 p.m. except on Sundays.

1866

- The town appropriated \$100 for a library. George A. Putnam was appointed the first librarian and established it in his home, now 237 Main Street.
- A Farmer's Club was formed with the following preamble, "We citizens of Rutland for the general improvement of ourselves, and a better understanding of that healthful, useful, and most noble employment of man, agriculture."

1867

- A home at the intersection of Route 122 and Irish Lane was purchased for \$800 where Mass could be celebrated by Catholics.
- 247 students are attending classes in 9 different Rutland schools.

1871

- A contagious cattle disease, Episoti Aпти, required farmers to get the Selectmen's permission before they could walk their cattle across any town lines.

1872

- William J. Stearns had a successful manufacturing company making cotton batting and bed comforters. This West Rutland mill burned in 1879 but a larger one was built in 1884.
- The townspeople voted at the town meeting to appropriate \$150 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Rutland's incorporation.

1874

- Seventh Day Adventist Church was built in North Rutland. It was a poor church depending on pastors and laymen from other churches.

1875

- Rutland Patrons of Husbandry (Grange) organized to give aid to farmers during difficult times. Rutland Grange turned in its charter in 2006.



Civil War
Monument

1879

- The Civil War monument on the common was dedicated. The soldier on top was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane and restored by the Historical Society in 1983.

1882

- St. Patrick's Church was dedicated. The Diocese had purchased the former Methodist Church on Main Street (across the street from the present Congregational Church)

1883

- By a vote of the First Society and the town of Rutland, ministerial and school funds were appropriated so that the town could build a town house for school and religious purposes. It stood where the public library now stands.
- The Muschopauge House was built. It was a huge hotel/tavern on the site of the present Community Hall. It could accommodate over one hundred overnight guests as well as transients for dinner. The town purchased it in 1929.

1884

- School was held 30 weeks per year ~ ten in fall, ten in winter and ten in spring for all children ages 5-15.
- Sons of Temperance, Naquag Division #106 organized. Its purpose was to shield members from evils of intemperance, mutual assistance in sickness of members, to give money at members' deaths to their family, save young from drink and to reclaim those influenced by strong drink.

1885

- On July 4th, the town bell is not to be rung before sunrise!

1886

- Farmers and citizens formed Rutland Co-operative Creamery to make butter. It had two stores in the center, two at West Rutland and one at North Rutland. The quality was so good, it was impossible to fill all the butter orders.

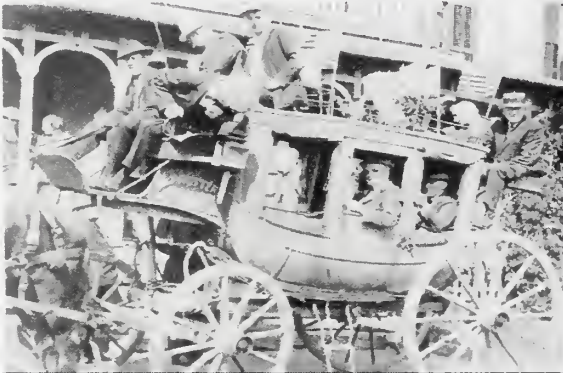
1887

- Massachusetts Central Railroad chartered to run from Cambridge to Northampton in 1871. The railroad was completed and rail service through Rutland began June 27, 1887 with four passenger trains a day stopping at stations on East County Road (Muschopauge Station), Miles Road, and at West Rutland.
- The Spaulding House was built with a boardwalk connecting it to the Muschopauge House. Known as the "cottage", it housed many overnight visitors.



1889

- A small barn owned by Lydia Reed burned in Rutland center 'sparking' citizens to gather ladders and a wagon for any future fires.



1890

- A Concord Coach was procured by Charles Bartlett and housed in his hotel's stable. The coach was drawn by a four-horse hitch, was a prize winner in Rutland coaching parades, and was sold in 1929.

1893

- Rutland Poor Farm was sold to John O'Leary for \$2100 and it was voted to join Holden, Hubbardston, Paxton, Oakham, and

Westminster in the care of Rutland's poor.

- \$150 appropriated at the town meeting to purchase fire equipment.

1894

- The first class graduated from Rutland High School. They had met the newly formed three year requirements in a variety of subjects.
- An article was placed before voters at a town meeting to take measures to secure waters of Muschopauge Lake for town purposes. In 1895, the State legislature gave the town those rights.
- The first coaching parade was held in Rutland. Hundreds of visitors came from surrounding towns to witness the huge parade, art exhibit, animal tent, antique displays and a dinner in a pavilion accommodating one thousand people. It was a fund raiser for the new town hall.
- The First Annual Ball was held by the Rutland Volunteer Fire Brigade.
- The Rutland Volunteer Fire Brigade began with 26 members with Henry Converse as Captain.

1895

- Any child age 7-15 found wandering and not attending school shall be committed to Truant School at Oakdale for confinement and discipline.
- Rutland Historical and Public Improvement Society organized. The November 6, 1896 meeting topics were connected to the Revolution, historical places in Philadelphia, Alexander Hamilton, finance and the right of neutrals at sea.
- The second annual coaching parade brought in even more people than the first. Three thousand people enjoyed the parade, were fed lunch and the Rutland hotels were full of guests.
- Water Commission started a system of water works to take water from Lake Muschopauge for extinguishment of fires and domestic purposes.

1896

- Town water was turned on September 4th for the first time.



Rutland Fire Station

1897

- A commission was called to name the Rutland roads. It was a difficult task because each road name must be suitable to the road as well as to the dwellers on the road.
- The Fire Station was dedicated. Funds for the hose house were raised by the town as well as by the Fire Brigade.

1898

- The town voted to erect a combination school building, town hall and library.
- The State Sanatorium was built on Central Tree Road and was the first state institution for the treatment and care of tuberculosis patients. There were 175 patients at first but that figure jumped to 250 by 1904. Rutland was favored because of the high altitude, pure air and fresh water-all thought to help in the TB cure. 25,000 patients would be treated in Rutland over the next 65 years.

1899

- Rutland dedicated its new town hall and school on the site of the present library. It had a hall, 6 classrooms, a library and in 1910 an addition was built.
- Adopted town seal presented by Selectmen-Rufus Putnam Memorial in the center, 2/23/1713 above, 1781-1788 below, Town of Rutland, Mass. around the outer circle Naquag 1686-Rutland 1713.



1900

1900

- The Congregational Church celebrated the 50th anniversary of its building which had been built for the cost of \$8,000.
- The first high school class graduates from the new Red School/Town Hall~Harry Bartlett, Howard Davis, Mary O'Connor, and Emmeline Taylor.



West Rutland Village

1900s

- Sunnyside Improvement Society was organized by H. Jones Davis. It was a social organization which also beautified Maple Avenue by planting maple trees the full length of the street.
- North Rutland was a thriving community with a general store, Seventh Day Adventist Church, a school, sawmills, boarding houses and many homes. The area was taken in the 1930s by the MDC.
- A school district formed with a Superintendent including the towns of Rutland Paxton, Oakham, and Hubbardston.
- West Rutland was also a thriving community with a railroad station, a general store, post office, school, woolen mill and many camps, cottages and homes.

1903

- The General Court appropriated \$25,000 to establish an industrial camp for prisoners and to reclaim and improve wasted land. The 914 acre property in West Rutland was turned into a successful 150 acre farm with dairy cows, goats, hens and vegetables grown to be sent to the state prison.
- Farmer James Putnam had a great potato yield due to the families of red-breasted grosbeaks that moved in and ate all the potato bugs.

1904

- Annual Town Meeting Article II stated "Whoever shall behave in an indecent or disorderly manner or use profane, indecent, or insulting language in a public place, sidewalk or street-shall pay not less than one dollar or more than twenty for each offense".
- "Anyone who willfully frightens a horse, or throws a ball, stones or other missile into the street shall forfeit no less than one dollar-no more than ten".
- Dorm buildings completed for the Prison Camp. Able bodied prisoners in jail for minor offenses were sent here to work the farm.
- Rutland was denied a special \$300 grant from the state for the high school because the two high school teachers were also teaching 8th grade. A legal high school must have two full time teachers, and be open 40 weeks per year. Pupil cost was nine or ten cents per pupil.

1905

- School #8 in New Boston became the property of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be used as a dormitory for the Temporary Industrial Camp for Prisoners.

1906

- Street lights were turned on along the Massachusetts highway in Rutland from Pound Hill (Glenwood Road) to the Holden Line.

1907

- A 30 bed hospital was built at the Prison Camp for prisoners with tuberculosis and it was in operation until 1934 when taken by the MDC.
- The Hotel Bartlett changed its name from Muschopauge House so as not to be confused with the Muschopauge Railroad Station-room rates were \$2.50-\$3.50 daily.
- From the hotel observatory, church spires from 16 town centers can be seen because Rutland is the highest town from the Berkshires to the Atlantic.



Hospital Wing—Prison Camp



Prison Camp Cemetery

1910

- Land was set aside for gravesites for prisoners who died at the Prison Camp.
- Board of Health called attention to State Law "unlawful to provide a common drinking cup in any public school or place." Each child must provide a cup if there is no suitable fountain.

1911

- A 45 pound turtle was caught near the pumping station on Lake Muschopauge.
- Boys' and Girls' Potato Clubs formed at the high school - 66 participated in planting, culturing and exhibiting potatoes at the Grange Fair.

1912

- Worcester County Institution for Savings gave children at school a bank book after \$3.00 was deposited. Children would learn the spirit of thrift by banking at school.
- Citizens decided to have a Fourth of July Celebration after many years with no observance. Civil War veterans would be the invited guests at a parade, dinner with speaker and large chorus followed by fireworks.

1913

- Rufus Putnam Masonic Lodge chartered-devoted to charitable and educational works and is still in existence.

1913 (cont.)

- Asbestos curtain purchased for the town hall stage. A committee established to raise funds for it and shall have free use of the hall for entertainment to raise those funds.
- Persis Putnam Chapter Order of Eastern Star instituted in the Masonic Hall.

1914

- Change the Annual town meeting to the First Monday in February.
- Rutland Equal Franchise Club was organized in the Congregational Church parsonage after a convincing argument for equal (women's) suffrage was addressed by Mrs. Pinkham of Massachusetts Woman's Suffrage Association.
- Woman's Catholic Club of Rutland held a dance in the town hall. One hundred couples attended dancing to a Boston orchestra until 1:00 a.m.
- A two day 200th Celebration of the town's Incorporation held with an historical pageant, civic and industrial parade with Governor David Walsh speaking. A congratulatory letter was received from President Warren Harding. There were also two balloon ascensions and a triple parachute jump to round out the celebration.
- It was recommended to make ninth grade part of the high school.
- Electricity came to Rutland on August 1st at 5:20 p.m.



Franklin T. Wood

1915

- Naquag Farm received second place in the Massachusetts Orchard Contest for the best old apple orchard renovated. The home is currently 11 Prescott Street.
- Frankin T. Wood (1877-1945) came to Rutland and married Hazel Hanff Morris. He had the distinction of being one of the great American etchers. During his thirty years in Rutland many citizens and Rutland scenes became subjects of his work.
- Clarence Griffin purchased the Country Store at the south-east corner of Maple Avenue and Main Street. It was later run by his wife, Nellie Griffin, and at her death by Police Chief John (Jack) Collins.

1917

- Dr. Bayard Crane and Associates built New England Sanatorium on 86 acres on Maple Avenue. The government helped with the building and supplies knowing tuberculosis would be increased due to the gases used in World War I.

1918

- Town to abolish paying for attendance at funerals and burial expenses for residents.
- Town to take over all fire fighting apparatus from the Fire Brigade and form a municipal fire department with one truck and equipment to go with it.
- Route 68 impassible for loaded teams (horses) in spring and fall and the State Highway Department to look into it.

1918 (cont.)

- Merrill Wheeler, Wachusett Street, harvested 221 white perfect beans from one bean stalk and grew a 2.25 pound potato.

1919

- Rutland presented bronze medals to 60 men with thanks for serving in World War I from 1917-1919. Men from 18-31 years of age served from our town. Avery Putnam, Herbert Watson and Rollin Cannon's families received their awards posthumously.
- Epidemic flu influenza closed schools and the library for five weeks.

1920

- The town of Rutland has more tuberculosis patients in hospitals than any other community in the United States.
- 42 fire extinguishers were placed around town in different homes and 34 more are privately owned.

1921

- Road contractors, working in North Rutland, used a steam roller and truck to move a ten-ton rock from Walter Wheeler's farm on Wachusett Street to the Common. A bronze tablet was placed on it with the names of Rutland World War I veterans and was dedicated November 11, 1921.
- The "Out to Win" Club, a Rutland branch of Home Economics Club of Worcester had 14 fifth grade girls who met twice a month with Helen Wheeler as President. They made 30 garments, darned 146 pair of stockings and did 1,349 works at home. It was training for efficiency in every line of housework.
- Clarence Bigelow bought the General Store in North Rutland and ran it until 1931 when MDC bought the land.
- Rutland, by a new state law, had to provide/teach indoor and outdoor games and athletic exercise in each school.
- Another law stated children 14-16 employed as private domestics or on farms need to get a special certificate from the Superintendent of Schools.
- Rutland spent \$111.30 to enforce Prohibition laws. The Volstead Act of 1919-1933 stated no person shall sell, barter, manufacture, transport, export, import, deliver, furnish or possess liquor over .5% alcohol.

1922

- Holden Hospital opened-serving Holden and Rutland and surrounding towns.
- Dr. Bayard Crane and CNES Corp. sold its Maple Avenue property and bought 223 acres of Sumner Fruit Farm on Miles Road. It was established to provide medical care for tuberculosis patients as well as provide training for a trade when they were discharged. It is now the site of Devereux School.
- The U.S. Veteran's Bureau purchased Crane's Sanatorium and 86 acres on Maple Avenue to use as a hospital to treat WWI and Spanish War veterans with tuberculosis.

1923

- The town got a 100-year lease from Rufus Putnam Memorial Association for 19 acres to use as a public park and playground. (current Putnam Park - Main St.)
- The VA Hospital opened its 500 bed facility on Maple Avenue.

1924

- 35 men and a few women "invaded" the Hotel Bartlett (formerly Muschopauge House) for a six month stay. They were Rhode Island senators who left the State to cause a lack of quorum to prevent passage of certain legislative bills. Steam heat was installed in a hotel section for their comfort-since the hotel usually closed by October 1st.
- One of the largest trees in this section of New England blew down in strong winds. It was in West Rutland, was 175 years old and 27 feet in circumference.

1925

- Rutland Worsted Company noted for fine worsted cloth had 28 buildings, 54 acres of land and 120 acres of Demond Pond Reservoir land.



1926

- Finnish Temperance Society of Worcester (Sovittaja) bought 12 acres with waterfront on Demond Pond and in 1927 a maple dance floor was built in the hall. The hall was 40'x50' and was built with just volunteers.
- Six boys formed a Poultry Club at the high school.
- The Congregational Church burned to the ground due to paint rags igniting. Fundraising and hard work rebuilt the church on the same site.

1927

- \$1070 to be raised for the Town Clock to be placed in the Congregational Church when it is erected.
- Shaft 5 project began. It is 650 feet deep, 12 feet in diameter and one of 4 shafts in Rutland that lead to a 12.5 mile tunnel from Oakham to West Boylston running under Rutland. It was constructed by Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission to provide water to Boston from Quabbin Reservoir.

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1928

- The Masonic Hall was moved to its present Main Street location. The building had been Rutland's town hall for 100 years.
- American Legion organized by Dr. W.B. Davidson, Frank Brooks, Rufus Putnam and Harold Judkins.
- North Rutland School closed.

1928 (cont.)

- Louis Hanff, on behalf of H. Edward Wheeler, presented to the moderator for the town a gavel made from the mud sill of the first sawmill built in Rutland about 1718 by Capt. Samuel Wright.

1929

- Erected a new stand pipe for water.
- Treasurer borrowed \$9700 under provision Chapter 44 General Laws to purchase a portion of Charles Bartlett estate and buildings for a public playground and recreation center (now Memorial Field).
- The Monday Night Club formed at the Congregational Church. This service organization is still in existence.

1930

- Hot lunches were introduced at school by the PTA.
- Tercentenary Celebration held in Rutland to celebrate the 300th observance of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. An historical booklet was sent to all the states. A tree was planned on the Town Common to mark the occasion.
- Rutland held Old Home Day with several thousand in attendance. There were worship services, dances and a parade with Governor Frank Allen in attendance.
- Get Acquainted Evening for summer residents-600 people attended a party given by Rutland officers and citizens. There were speeches, refreshments and two orchestras-Clifford Wheeler's for modern dance and one from Spencer for old fashioned dancing.

1931

- Prison Camp Hospital will be abandoned to make way for watershed for Metropolitan District Commission.

**1932**

- Rutland Sportsman's Club founded
- April 23 - Central Massachusetts Railroad service through Rutland discontinued.
- August 3 - Two freight trains collided - engineer and fireman were killed.- 1/2 mile east of Pommogussett Road.

1933

- Prescott's bus route operated between Athol and Worcester, serving Barre and Rutland. Barre Bus Company replaced Prescott's and served the residents until the late 1970s.

1934

- June 14 - Establish Rutland Police Department.
- Arnold C. Weller appointed acting Police Chief.
- November 30 - Area known as the Rutland Prison Camp closed by M.D.C. (Metropolitan District Commission) Land was used as watershed for the Quabbin Reservoir.

1935

- First Rutland Police Chief - John Collins—retired 1971.

1936

- Post Office moved from 7 Maple Avenue to the area of Rutland Pharmacy.
- Rutland Veterans Hospital converted to general medical - 467 beds.
- 288 Tuberculosis patients — 179 general medical & surgical.
- Grades one and two elementary school built next to Red School. Partially funded, \$35,000, by NIRA - National Industrial Recovery Act

1937

- Louis Hanff, long-time Town Clerk, dies.

1938

- September 21 - Hurricane - flooding, loss of electricity and telephone, serious damage to many homes in Rutland.
- September 21 - Central Massachusetts Railroad discontinues freight service in Rutland.

1939

- Community Hall and Library are built (site of former Bartlett Hotel).
- April 22 - Library opens at new Community Hall.
- Franklin Wood Studio built.

1941 to 1945

- World War II
- Plane spotters checking for enemy aircraft worked in the upper story of old fire station.
- Rutland students participated in War Bond program - \$.10 per week bought a stamp towards a War Bond.
- Rutland residents experienced rationing - gasoline, oil, tires, butter, sugar.
- 237 men and woman served their country from the town of Rutland.

1941

- February 3 - First Town By-Laws adopted.
- First sewers built in Rutland.



Morris Bungalow / Wood House

1945

- Franklin Wood, famous etcher, dies. He lived in what is now known as the Wood House on Main Street and was married to the former Hazel Hanff Morris. The Rutland Historical Society currently occupies this house.

1946

- March 24 - V.F.W. Naquag Post 6716 founded.
- August 9 - "Welcome Home Celebration" to welcome home veterans of World War II was held in Red School.

1947

- Rutland Recreational Council - a volunteer organization was founded and incorporated. They organized parades, Halloween events, the Rutland Winter Carnival and other recreational events until 1975.

1948

- July 4 - First 4th of July parade was held - sponsored by Rutland Recreational Council, along with other events.

1950

- Korean War (1950 - 1955) 43 young men from Rutland served in this war.
- July 5 - Rutland's Memorial Field was dedicated to WW II veterans.



Rufus Putnam House—Main Street

1951

- Town Pool opens
- The Rufus Putnam house on Main Street was sold, along with 157 acres, to George and Vivian Endicott. Mrs. Endicott was instrumental in having the house designated as a National Historic Landmark. It is the only house in Rutland to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1953

1953

- June 9 - Tornado - Rutland Elementary Principal Donald Marsh and high school sophomore Robert "Pete" Harding killed; 26 injured; 11 houses lost, 16 damaged. The tornado began in Petersham and ended in Southborough. It took 84 minutes and killed 94 people.



"Old Red School"

1956

- July 1 - Rutland Building Code adopted.

1958

- April 5 - St. Patrick's church on Main Street (former Methodist church) closes.
- April 6 - newly built St. Patrick's Catholic Church begins services (at the corner of Route 122A and Pommogussett Road).
- June 24 Chapter 474 of the Acts of 1958 - Muschopauge Pond - specifies how much water Rutland and Holden may draw from pond.



St. Patrick's Church

1960

- Rutland Fife and Drum Corps formed. Edmund Butkiewicz, Jr. founder. He was later assisted by Joseph Kozminski. The Corps was active until 1978.

1961

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts opens a State Park in Rutland on White Hall Pond and a boat ramp on Barre-Paxton Road.

1962

- May 25 - Rutland Zoning By-laws adopted.

1964

- Rutland Ski Tow operated on Pommogussett Road. A rope tow served Rutland until the 1970s. Operated by Raymond Kline.

1964 - 1975

- Vietnam conflict - 87 young men and women from Rutland served during this conflict.

1965

- January 6 - Naquag Elementary School opens - grades K through 8.
- Old Red School torn down. It is presently the site of the Rutland Public Library.
- Rutland Training Center (formerly CNES Central New England Sanatorium) ceases operation and sells property to Devereux Corporation.
- February 1 - Devereux School commences operations in Rutland. Serves young people with special emotional and behavioral needs.
- March 12 - Rutland Historical Society organized. Incorporated July 23, 1965.
- Rutland Historical Society occupies the Wood House, at 232 Main Street, sharing the facility with the Rutland Police Department.
- June 30 - V.A. Hospital on Maple Avenue in Rutland closes.
- November 1 - State Sanatorium closes.
- November 1 - Patients moved from Rutland State Sanatorium to VA Hospital, located on Maple Avenue. Name changed to Rutland Heights Hospital.

1966

- Original elm tree denoting the exact geographic center of Massachusetts was removed due to Dutch elm disease.

1967

- New Rutland Post Office dedicated - Maple Avenue.

1968

- August 4th - Memorial to WWII soldiers, Korean and Vietnam veterans dedicated - sponsored by VFW Post 6716 and American Legion Post 31.
- November 27 - First Ecumenical Service held at the Rutland First Congregational church with members from St. Patrick's church next door.

1971

- Rutland Lion's Club established.
- May 2 - New Library dedicated (next to Community Hall).
- Town shuts down operations at old "town dump" on Pommogussett Road.
- Sanitary Landfill opened on Charnock Hill Road.

1972

- Year long celebration of the Town of Rutland's incorporation. Included were Founders Day, Brothers of the Brush, Ecumenical Service, Parade, Alumni Ball.

1973

- March 7 - Town accepts general laws to appoint an Historical Commission.

1974

- September - addition to Naquag School opened

1977

- Sycamore tree planted to replace diseased elm indicating the exact geographical center of Massachusetts. Sycamore tree did not survive and was replaced by a red maple tree.

1978

- January 8 New Fire Station on Main Street dedicated.
- June 26 Council on Aging Board members appointed.
- Rutland purchases the first ambulance.

1982

- Hawthorne Hills, first elderly housing units built in Rutland at 106 Main Street.

1983

- May 30 - Civil War Monument re-dedicated (soldier was destroyed in 1938 hurricane). Replaced by Rutland Historical Society.

1984

- Heifer Project International commences operation in Rutland. Dedicated to feeding the world with innovative programs.

1985

- Spencer Savings Bank opens first bank in Rutland.
- December 30 - First Full-time Police Officer - Francis G. Glynn.

1988

- Landfill site closed on Charnock Hill Road. Residents have their rubbish picked up.

1990

- Holden Hospital closed. The hospital had served Rutland residents for many years.

1991

- Rutland Heights Hospital closes.
- First Tercentenary Tree lighting ceremony held - sponsored by Rutland Historical Society.

1992

- DARE Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) activated in Rutland for Grades five and six.

1993

- Wachusett Regional School District established for grades K through 12.

1995

- April 1 - First Full-time Police Chief- Ralph H. Anderson, Jr.
- August - First annual Chowder Fest sponsored by the Rutland Fire Brigade.
- Linda Hanff, former Town Clerk dies, thus ending 106 years of service to the Town as Town Clerks by the Putnam and Hanff families.

1996

- Council on Aging begins using Rutland Community Center (Glenwood Road) property for programs for elderly.

1998

- Central Tree Middle School opens (grades six through eight).

2001

- June 10 - New Rutland Public Library is dedicated.



Rutland Public Library

2002

- New Public Safety building opens for business at 250 Main Street.
- December 7 - First Annual Festival of Trees - sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society - includes lighting of Tercentenary tree and open house at Society with many decorated trees set up by local organizations. Santa visits the Wood studio.

2003

- New Department of Public Works garage opens on Pommogussett Road.

2005

- August - Rutland Little Leaguers become District 4 champions.

2006

- March - Rutland Heights Hospital water tower removed; all other buildings having been demolished previously.
- June - Students from Baypath Vocational School restore the Wood Studio at the rear of the Historical Society building.
- September - Glenwood Elementary School opens (grades Kindergarten through five)
- October - First Rutland Pumpkin Paddle contest held at Long Pond.

2007

2007

- May 14- First five-member Board of Selectmen elected.

2008

- August 25 - A large majority of Rutland voters approve the sum of \$546,000 to purchase the 88 acre Rutland Heights Hospital land on Maple Avenue.

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